

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 084296

61

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 AID-20 SS-20 NSC-07 /096 R

DRAFTED BY EA/P:STAFF:PP

APPROVED BY EA/P:AHROSEN

----- 062054

R 251251Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

USDEL JEC PARIS

USSAGE NAKHON PHANOM

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

COGARD POLAD

XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

UNCLAS STATE 084296

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: APRIL 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY

INDOCHINA

1. AP REPORTS THAT DOS "REVERSES" ITSELF, ORDERS
AMBASSADOR MARTIN TO RETURN THIS SPRING FOR CON-
SULTATIONS AND LIKELY APPEARANCES BEFORE CONGRESSIONAL
COMMITTEES ON AID COMMITMENTS. LESS THAN WEEK AGO DOS
SAID THAT MARTIN WOULD REMAIN IN SAIGON INDEFINITELY.
DOS SPOKESMAN KING SAYS AMB. WILL NOT MAKE NATIONAL
SPEAKING TOUR, CAUTIONS NEWSMEN NOT TO READ ANYTHING
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 084296

INTO VISIT SINCE IT IS "ROUTINE CONSULTATION" (NYT).

2. MCCARTNEY (PHINQ) SAYS WH PLANS TO SEND REVISED FOREIGN AID PROGRAM TO CONGRESS LATER THIS WEEK THAT WILL INCLUDE ADDITIONAL 150 MILLION DOLS ECON AID FOR SVN. WP INDICATES THAT REQUEST WILL BE DISCUSSED AT WH BREAKFAST FOR CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS TODAY, AND WILL ALSO INCLUDE ASSISTANCE TO CAMBODIA AND LAOS.

3. GVN DELEGATE READS APPEAL TO TPJMC IN SAIGON URGING NVN TO WITHDRAW TROOPS AND RETURN POSITIONS OVERRUN BY COMMUNISTS SINCE C-F. ISOLATED VC DELEGATION AT TAN SON NHUT SENDS PROTEST NOTE TO SVN TPJMC DELEGATION DEMANDING RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF TELEPHONE SERVICES, RESUMPTION OF

LIAISON FLIGHTS TO LOC NINH, AND RESTORATION OF MOVEMENT RIGHTS. ON MONDAY IN PARIS GVN DEL REJECTED VC PROPOSAL TO RESUME POLITICAL TALKS, DEMANDED END TO ATTACKS, RETURN OF CAPTURED BASES, WITHDRAWAL OF NVA AND COOPERATION WITH ICCS (WP).

4. SOUTHERLAND (CSM) FROM SAIGON OBSERVES THAT BOTH SIDES SEEM MORE CONCERNED WITH OWN ECON STRUGGLES THAN WITH HEAVIER FIGHTING THAT ERUPTED IN PAST FEW WEEKS. IN SAIGON NO SIGN OF PANIC OVER MIL SITUATION AND REAL CONCERN OF MOST IS STEADILY DETERIORATING ECON SITUATION. SOUTHERLAND BELIEVES GVN PROTESTS OVER LOSS OF TONG LE CHAN RELATED TO NEED FOR CONTINUED US ECON AND MIL AID SINCE BASE ISOLATED FOR SO LONG IT WAS USELESS TO GVN. QUOTES "SOURCES IN SAIGON" THAT BASE GIVEN UP IN DEAL BETWEEN PRG EDDEFENDERS AND LOSS BEING DRAMATIZED IN HOPE OF DRAWING ATTENTION TO NVN "THREAT" AND NEED FOR MORE AID. SPEECH BY INFO MINISTER NHA PREDICTING IMMINENT NVN OFFENSIVE IS WIDELY VIEWED AS PITCH FOR US SYMPATHY AND AID. SOME EXPERTS CONSIDER GENERAL OFFENSIVE LESS LIKELY NOW THAN FEW MONTHS AGO, BUT ENOUGH FIGHTING CONTINUES TO FORCE GVN TO MAINTAIN HUGE ARMY THAT STRAINS ECONOMY. FIGHTING DISCOURAGES PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PRICES RISE RAPIDLY, LIVING STANDARDS DECLINE AND POVERTY SPREADS. ECON SQUEEZE ALSO BEING FELT IN ARMY AND SUPPLY SYSTEM BEING TIGHTENED AND OFFICERS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 084296

LOSE SOME FRINGES. RECENT HANOI STATEMENTS INDICATE THAT NVN ALSO HARD-PRESSED AND VISITORS BELIEVE HANOI DECIDED, FOR MOMENT AT LEAST, TO CONCENTRATE ON RECONSTRUCTION. THIS MAY MEAN NO MAJOR OFFENSIVE FOR NEXT YEAR OR SO, BUT APPARENTLY DOES NOT MEAN ABANDONMENT OF STRUGGLE IN SVN. NVN KEEPS MOVING SUPPLIES DOWN AND SEEMS TRYING TO KEEP OPTION OF FULL-SCALE FIGHTING OPEN. VETERAN HANOI-WATCHER

CONTENDS THAT IF NVN SERIOUS ABOUT TACKLING ECON PROBLEMS, IT CANNOT FIGHT A MAJOR WAR, THOUGH TIT-FOR-TAT ESCALATION OF FIGHTING POSSIBLE.

5. LAO GOVT SOURCES SAY PL AGREES TO REOPEN ROADS AND RIVERS LONG BLOCKED BY COMMUNISTS (AP, SUN).

6. AP TOKYO QUOTES SIHANOUK THAT HE WILL NEVER ACCEPT NEGOTIATION, COMPROMISE OR TRUCE WITH LON NOL (NY POST 4/23). IN PARIS SIHANOUK'S GOVT-IN-EXILE CHARGES 1200 US MARINES ARE DEPLOYED IN CAMBODIAN WATERS IN PREPARATION FOR "NEW DIRECT AMERICAN AGGRESSION", SAYS NUMBER OF US MIL ADVISERS TO LON NOL REGIME

HAS INCREASED FROM 3500 TO 10,000 (AP, SUN).

7. MAJOR DEFEAT LOOMS AS COMMUNIST TROOPS PRESS ATTACK ON LONGVEK, WITH NO PROSPECT OF RELIEF OR RESCUE. OBSERVERS IN PP SAY GKR TROOPS HAVE TO SAVE THEMSELVES OR BE OVERRUN (CHITRIB). HELICOPTERS TRY TO RESCUE WOUNDED FROM 2500-MAN GARRISON TRAPPED AT LONGVEK, TRAINING CENTER AND MOTOR POOL 25 MILES NORTH OF PP (WP). "INSURGENTS" FIRE ON HELICOPTER TRYING TO EVACUATE WOUNDED FROM LONGVEK. ARMY SOURCE SAYS ENEMY CAPTURED 40 MORTARS, ONE 105-MM HOWITZER AND SCORES OF MGS AT KOMPONG LUONG BEACHHEAD WHERE TEN APCs AND THREE 105-MM HOWITZERS DESTROYED IN WEEKEND BATTLE. OTHER FIGHTING REPORTED 13 MILES NORTH OF PP ON HIGHWAY 5, ALONG BASSAC 8 MILES SE OF CAPITAL AND AROUND KAMPOT (AP, SUN).

CHINA

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 084296

8. JOC'S STRAUSS, IN HK, SAYS BUSINESSMEN RETURNING FROM CANTON FAIR REPORT SHARPLY INCREASED PRICES AND SHORT SUPPLIES IN SOME MAJOR PRC EXPORT ITEMS. REPORTS, STILL SKETCHY, INDICATE 50-100 PERCENT INCREASE IN COST OF SOME CHEMICALS; AND TEXTILES ARE STILL UNCOMPETITIVE WITH WORLD PRICES. OBSERVERS SAY RECENT EXECUTIONS IN CANTON HAVE LITTLE TO DO WITH CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN AND APPEAR TO RESULT FROM CRIMINAL RATHER THAN POLITICAL OFFENSES. WITH FAIR WELL INTO SECOND WEEK, NO US CONGEN HK OFFICIALS YET INVITED AND FEW FOREIGN NEWSMEN HAVE SEEN NEW TRADE FAIR BUILDING; BELIEVED THAT ONLY 2 JAPANESE CORRESPONDENTS AND A SWEDISH BROADCASTER HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TRAVEL FROM HK TO CANTON.

9. NCNA REPORTS DEATH APRIL 19 OF FAMED EX-NATIONALIST
GENERAL FU TSO-YI WHO LATER RECEIVED PROMINENT POSITIONS
IN PRC. CHOU EN-LAI AND LONG LIST OF OTHER LEADERS
ATTENDED FUNERAL (WP, SUN). REUTER NOTES THAT ONLY
MEMBER OF POLITBURO STANDING COMMITTEE NOT TO
E E E E E E E

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE084296
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: STAFF:PP
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740098-0458
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740414/aaaaalys.tel
Line Count: 169
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: ANOMALY
Review Date: 04 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APRIL 24 EA PRESS SUMMARY INDOCHINA
TAGS: PFOR, XC, US
To: SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005